

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

RECEIVED

PCT

DEC 15 2003

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

OLSON & HIERL, LTD.

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference TDYNE-305-PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US03/19150	International filing date (day/month/year) 17 June 2003 (17.06.2003)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 17 June 2002 (17.06.2002)
Applicant TRIMEDYNE, INC		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the Report
 - a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
 - b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
 contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.
2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).
3. Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).
4. With regard to the title,
 the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 10
 as suggested by the applicant.
 because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 because this figure better characterizes the invention.
 None of the figures

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/19150

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The abstract is too long (PCT Rule 8.1(b)). The abstract must be less than 150 words, or 200 words when no figure is to be published.

Spinal stabilization devices (100) and their methods of insertion and use to treat degenerated lumbar, thoracic or cervical spinal discs in minimally invasive, outpatient procedures are described. The spinal stabilization device (100) which is an expandable cage made of a coil or perforated cylindrical tube has a bulbous-shaped distal end and a rounded proximal end. The device (100) is inserted through a cannula (111) into a tunnel (112) created within the spinal disc (113). The spinal stabilization device is spaced between adjacent vertebrate (114 and 115).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/19150

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 02/44

US CL : 623/17.11

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 623/17.11,17.16:606/61

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,669,090 A (ZDEBLICK et al) 23 September 1997 (23.09.1997), column 9, lines 55-65 and Figures 2,3,8-10.	1-5,10,12,14-18,20-24,29,31,32,35
---		-----
Y		7,8,19
X	US 5,976,187 A (RICHELSOPH) 2 November 1999 (02.11.1999), column 3, lines 25+ and column 6, lines 41-42. Figures 1-5.	1,7-9,19,25,26,35
---		-----
Y		7,8,19
Y	US 5,693,100 A (PISHARODI) 02 December 1997 (02.12.1997), Figures 5-7.	6,27,28
A	US 6,120,502 A (MICHELSON) 19 September 2000 (19.09.2000), see entire disclosure and Figures.	1-35
X, P	US 6,558,386 B1 (CRAGG) 06 May 2003 (06.05.2003), column 18, lines 17-43.	30,33,34

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 November 2003 (13.11.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

05 DEC 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Kamran R. Landrigan

Telephone No. 703-308-0858